

Bavarian News

Vol. 2 Nr. 1

Grafenwoehr, Hohenfels and Vilseck

January 11, 2006



Germans and their pets

See page 12

News in brief

Army Civilian Attitude Survey

Participate in the Army's official attitude and opinion survey of the civilian workforce. It measures job satisfaction, workforce morale, and other issues. Your input is valuable since results are used locally. All Army civilian employees, supervisors, and managers should take the survey over the web. The survey is voluntary and may be taken during your normal duty hours or at home. Available through the end of January, the survey does not apply to military, National Guard Title 32 Technicians, or contract employees. To get to the survey, click <http://cpol.army.mil/survey/dasurvey> or copy this link to your browser.

If you have difficulties accessing the survey: ArmySurvey@questarweb.com. If you have questions about the survey: ArmySurvey2005@asamra.hoffman.army.mil.

Postal rates going up

The U.S. Postal Service has announced that rates and fees will increase by approximately 5.4 percent, effective Jan. 8.

This increase is the first since 2002. Among the adjustments, the 1-ounce, single-piece rate for first-class mail will increase from 37 cents to 39 cents, and the postcard rate will increase by one cent, to 24 cents.

For additional postal information, visit the USPS website at <http://www.usps.com/ratecase> or the USAREUR Postal Operations Directorate website at <http://www.1perscom.army.mil/pod>.

Don't use Salt to De-ice Sidewalks

Bavarian Law and USAG Grafenwoehr policy do not allow the use of salt for the de-icing of sidewalks. DPW, Garrison Grafenwoehr has procured and keeps on stock an environmentally friendly deicing product, which will be used in lieu of salt on post and in GRHP and Built to Lease (BLT) Housing. It is available in the DPW Self Help stores for on post, GRHP and BTL residents.

POSH training mandatory

All civilian personnel in the IMA-E Region, to include military service members that supervise civilian employees, must complete this refresher training for FY 2006. All new employees that have not taken the initial classroom training must do so prior to participating in this on-line course. To schedule initial POSH training, please contact Ms. Josie Hammond at 475-7215 or josie.hammond@us.army.mil. <http://training.newmedialearning.com/psh/usarmymae/message.htm>

New portrait studio

Opening Jan. 17 in the Vilseck Concession Mall, will be a new portrait studio called "Creative Art Photography by Czechowski." Open normal business hours, 11am-6pm, closed on Sundays (subject to change). Czechowski studio has been around for a while and has a great website that you can check out at www.czechowskiphotography.com you can see many examples of their work.

Home Sweet Homecoming

by Nick D'Amario
Command Information Officer

Soldiers of the 94th Engineer Battalion, along with the 535th Engineer Company (Combat Special Equipment), returned to USAG Grafenwoehr Jan. 6 – 8, after spending nearly a year in Iraq.

The battalion consists of nearly 700 Soldiers in four companies; Alpha Company based in Hohenfels, Bravo Company and HSC based at Vilseck, and the 535th based in Grafenwoehr.

The first to return were 74 Soldiers of the 94th's Headquarters Support Company arriving in three commercial buses at 12:15 a.m. Saturday morning.

Within 30 minutes they turned in their weapons to the arms room, loaded back onto the buses and marched into Vilseck's Memorial Fitness Center to the hoots and cheers of family and friends awaiting them.

Col. Brian T. Boyle, USAG Grafenwoehr commander, addressed the first returning 94th Soldiers with "we all extremely proud of you" and "go on leave and have a great time because you did a great job." He also addressed their upcoming reintegration as a "program designed for you and your families."

Boyle turned formalities over to 1st Sgt. Joe Constante who quickly dismissed his Soldiers to the delight of family and friends gathered.

For some Soldiers of the 94th, this was their first deployment, while others are returning from their second tour in Iraq.

Those recently returned were deployed to Iraq Jan. 27-28, 2005, and were headquartered in Mosul, said Capt. Therese Kelley, 26, of Mahomet, MN, the battalion's rear detachment officer since March 2005.

Second HSC group arrives same day

by Kathy Jordan
Bavarian News

Later Saturday evening, family members and friends gathered to welcome home another group of 126 HSC Soldiers arriving on five buses at the Vilseck Memorial Center. Cheers, excitement and long overdue hugs and smiles awaited the Soldiers.

"It's really nice to have everybody back. 94th has gone through quite a bit, especially with their second deployment in three years...they have done it again. It is good they are back because their families have been without them for a long time," said Lt. Col. Michael Todd 3rd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division commander.

Many family members had been waiting for hours at the fitness center in anticipation of the Soldiers coming home.

See *Homecoming*, page 11



Photo by Nick D'Amario

Jubilant marks the face of this Soldier as she gets off the bus in Vilseck.



Photo by Nick D'Amario

Pfc. Cedric Grant, with 16-month son Kanye. Grant looks forward to "catching up with my family." His son and wife, Keisha, reunited with him at 1 a.m., Jan. 7.



Photo by Kathy Jordan

The entire gamut of emotions are visible while family and friends await their heroes' return.

JMTC commander pins on star

7th Army JMTC Public Affairs

Grafenwoehr, Germany – The commander of the 7th Army Joint Multinational Training Command was promoted to the rank of brigadier general Jan. 4.



BG David G. Perkins

U.S. Army Europe," spoke about Perkins' exemplary leadership abilities and experience.

"I had the opportunity to watch him train down at Hohenfels, when he was a lieutenant colonel," said McKiernan. "It was obvious to all of us, back then, that he was destined to be a senior leader in our Army."

McKiernan noted that Perkins had been "doing a general officer's job" for some time now, and the promotion ceremony was simply a validation of his ability and drive to excel.

Newly pinned Brig. Gen. Perkins spoke briefly, thanking his family, the community, and the command and Soldiers of the JMTC.

"One of the greatest joys of command is working so closely with our German hosts and

partners," he said. "Thank you for being such wonderful hosts. The United States has no greater friend."

He concluded his remarks by speaking of Soldiers who had fallen in battle.

"There is no way I could ever repay the debt I owe them," he said. "I'd like to dedicate today's ceremony to their memory."

Perkins has commanded the JMTC since Aug. 4, 2005. Prior to his assignment to the 7th Army Joint Multinational Training Command, Perkins served as the Executive Assistant to the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff at the Pentagon.

Perkins graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1980. He later served as an instructor at the U.S. Military Academy.

He has served in staff and command positions in assignments in the U.S., Germany and Iraq, where he led the 2d Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, into Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom March 21, 2003. The brigade culminated its attack with an armored assault into Baghdad on April 7, 2003.

His civilian education includes a bachelor's degree from the United States Military Academy, a master's

degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Michigan, and a master's degree in National Security and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College.

Perkins' awards and decorations include the Silver Star, the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit (with Oak Leaf Cluster), the Meritorious Service Medal (with three Oak Leaf Clusters), the Army Commendation Medal (with Oak Leaf Cluster) and the Army Achievement Medal (with three Oak Leaf Clusters).



Photos by Paula Guzman, 7th Army JMTC Public Affairs

7th Army JMTC commander Col. David G. Perkins, left, receives brigadier general stars from USAREUR commander Gen. David D. McKiernan, right, and Ginger Perkins, center, during ceremonies held at Grafenwoehr Jan. 4.

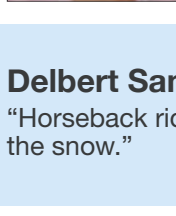
Q&A

What is your favorite winter activity?



Zlata Chernyshenko

"Sledding or snowboarding anywhere there's a steep hill."



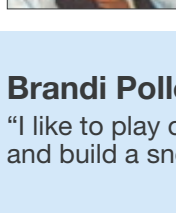
Delbert Sam

"Horseback riding in the snow."



Lakisha Busby

"Snowboarding in our neighborhood."



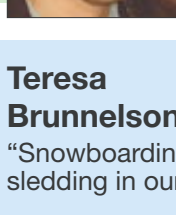
Brandi Pollett

"I like to play outside and build a snow fort."



Jose Reyes

"Fencing indoors, and going outside and throwing snowballs."



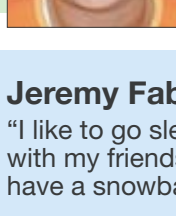
Teresa Brunnelson

"Snowboarding and sledding in our town."



Reanna Turner

"Ice skating in Regensburg."



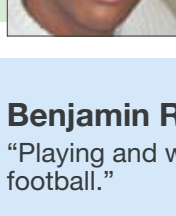
Jeremy Fabregas

"I like to go sledding with my friends and have a snowball fight."



Jonathon Milliner

"Snowball fights."



Benjamin Rogers

"Playing and watching football."



Andrade Javier

"Football – both playing and watching."

Interviews and photos by Alice Adler
Bavarian News

Commentary

'Thoughts while moving around'

Setting the Scene for 2006:

Promotion and Change of Command, FRG Night

by Col. Brian T. Boyle
USAG Grafenwoehr Commander

This is the first issue of our newly named paper – The Bavarian News. I trust all had a restful Christmas holiday, are recharged and ready to begin the New Year. I will use this column to lay out what sort of changes will occur in the GRAF-Vilseck area for the next year and finish up with what we do for FRG nights.

Winter 05/06. The beginning of the year shows the 11th TRANS Company on block leave, having finished their R4 process over Christmas. The 94th Engineer battalion is on 'short final' returning from a year in Iraq along with the 535 ENG Company. We expect the 41st PLS will return in the March time frame. 71st Med is still deployed in Afghanistan, 615th MP Company is getting ready to deploy, and the remainder of 18th CSB deployed to Iraq in the fall. So even with all the construction ongoing and units arriving, we are still deploying and welcoming home already assigned Grafenwoehr units.

Summer 2006. Summer will be a challenging time for all of us. Everyone is aware that the Stryker Brigade will begin to arrive in Vilseck. In order to make room for them, we have moved 18th CSB and several smaller but vital units from Vilseck to Grafenwoehr. Also at the same time, we will help out-process the 94th Engineer Battalion as they prepare for movement to CONUS. We will also start to see the arrival of the first units into Grafenwoehr. Related construction activities include the expansion of two Medical clinics, the new AAFES/DECA complex, new headquarters, and the opening of the new fitness facility. Europe-



Col. Boyle

wide, USAG Franconia will start to downsize as 1st ID begins to return to CONUS. I tell all of you this because as you can see we will all be busy. My first column to the community talked about us 'surviving the construction' so our re-

placements will live in a great place. I think that is still the case. Throughout 2008 we will continue to see construction and the movement of forces into this area. It is only 2009 and on that we will finally settle down and know what the end-state of GRAF Vilseck looks like. All I ask from you is patience as we together engage obstacles towards our end-state.

Promotion and Change of Command. Congratulations to BG Perkins for his promotion (and on a related note to MG Hertling for his promotion). The ceremony was tremendous. We were also able to host the new USAREUR commander at Graf-Vilseck this past week. I was happy to show him what we look like now and what we think the end-state is. He provided us guidance, but in general we are on the right track.

FRG night. As a reminder, we use the second Tuesday of each month as FRG night. We do not schedule any youth sports that day, and keep CDCs open to provide child care for the events. I don't dictate attendance at FRGs, but we as a community make these resources available to encourage participation in FRG events.

I'd like to close this column with a welcome back to 94th ENG and 535 Eng Co. A great job by all of you during your second one-year deployment to Iraq. We will do a quality R4 process for you and put you on your absolutely deserved block leave.

Upon your return, we will work with you to ensure you are provided all resources to efficiently process out and return to CONUS. And we will celebrate in the March time-frame with a large celebration. Again, congratulations on a job well done.

One Soldier Killed, Two Injured in Pre-Holiday Crash

Safety Alert from our USAREUR CG

by General David D. McKiernan

I hope you have enjoyed the holidays and have taken a well-deserved break. Carmen and I would like to send our very best wishes to all leaders, Soldiers, civilians, contractors, and family members in the Army in Europe. We especially thank those who are separated by deployment from their loved ones at this time of year. I look forward to working with you in the new year.

Unfortunately, the joy of the holiday season has been diminished by yet another POV tragedy. Three Soldiers who were on their way to the airport for holiday leave were injured when their vehicle rear-ended a truck in slow-moving traffic. The two Soldiers who were in the front seat had to be transported to a hospital by helicopter. One of them has since died from the severe head injuries he suffered in the crash, and the other remains in very serious condition. The third Soldier, who was in the back seat, received minor injuries.

I will release information about the specific lessons learned (AE Reg 385-40) from this crash after the investigation is completed. In the meantime, we must consider what we can do to prevent crashes such as these, both on and off duty.

Time Management and "Backward Planning." We have enough tools and knowledge to help us identify and assess traffic risks and take



General David D. McKiernan, our new U.S. Army-Europe Commander.

action to reduce those risks. The USAREUR homepage and the USAREUR G3 website provide current information on weather and road

conditions. Those who plan to travel should use these tools to assess the risks associated with their trip and allow enough travel time to compensate for delays, inclement weather, and traffic. Violating the planned schedule significantly raises the travel risk.

Driving in Inclement Weather. Weather in central Europe changes frequently. Travelers can expect to face ice, rain, snowstorms, and spots of dense fog. Speed limits are established for ideal road conditions. When road conditions are poor, drivers must lower their speed and increase their following distance to allow time to recognize and react to road hazards without losing control of the vehicle. Braking on wet or icy pavement is extremely hazardous and can triple the stopping distance.

Maintaining Situational Awareness. Situational awareness means being alert and concentrating on the task at hand. Drivers should start their trip refreshed, eliminate distractions, and remain alert so they can react to hazards caused by other, less-attentive drivers.

Army in Europe Command Policy Letter 3 and Under the Oak Tree counseling remain in effect. Leaders must continue to ask tough questions, remain engaged with their Soldiers, and know their Soldiers' off-duty activities. No Loss of Life is our goal. Let us do all we can to reach this goal in 2006.

HISSES AND HURRAHS

Hurrah to Dr. William Zoesch (Col., Active Reserve) for making it back to the Vilseck Clinic after his over a year long deployment. We all missed you very much and are happy to have you back. Your family and friends.

Hurrah to the USAG Grafenwoehr military police for their excellence in community support and service over the recent holidays, and throughout the year. We appreciate the sacrifices you make to keep Soldiers, families, civilians and countless other people safe and protected in difficult times.

Bavarian News

Grafenwoehr • Hohenfels • Vilseck

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Hohenfels’ Felton recognized for heroism

by Gerry Arbios

USAG Hohenfels Public Affairs

Sometimes people do extraordinary things without batting an eyelid.

That’s what happened on Saturday, May 14, 2005 when Benedict Felton, 25, jumped into the Vils River to save an elderly couple after their car plunged into the river.

Felton was on his way to his mother’s house, where he had planned to drop off his children for a visit. While driving past Dietldorf, near the town of Emhof, he and his family saw a car swerve off the road, hit a tree and plunge into the river. He immediately stopped, put on his hazard lights, ran to the river bank, pulled off his boots, shed his wallet – and jumped in.

The lady, Bernadette Heimler, 72, had managed to open the door and free herself from the seatbelt while the car was sinking. Heimler, who cannot swim, remembers calling for help three times before the water covered her head. Just when the car was sinking, Felton reached Heimler and pulled her up out of the water and started back to shore with her, fighting frigid waters and a heavy current on the way. At the shore a fisherman helped Felton bring Heimler to land. Meanwhile, two other good Samaritans jumped in and helped pull her husband, Josef, 76, out of the water.

Felton admits that he did not stop to consider the consequences of his actions. “It was just a natural thing,” he said, “I saw someone in need of help.” Felton went on to say that he only did what he hoped someone else would do for his family if necessary.

Felton said he is a pretty strong swimmer, but the swift current of the Vils River made the rescue challenging. He noted that the day before the rescue he had attended the Spring Safety Day on post, and although he had learned a lot, they had not covered the problem of rescuing people from cars in rivers.

During the rescue Felton’s car battery had died, but the local Polizei helped restart his car after taking his statement. Local firemen’s jackets were provided for the cold rescuers. “I helped her out, but I ended up needing help at the scene, too,” said Felton.

On Jan. 6 at the Hohenfels Community New Year’s Reception, Felton was presented the Civilian Award for Humanitarian Services by Col. Thomas Vandal, who said, “There is a hero in our midst.”

Heimler says she felt that Felton managed to save her at the very last possible minute. “Ben was there at the right moment,” she said. She also feels she has a new start in life. “I feel like a newborn.”

In the days after the accident, the Heimlers and their children sought Felton out and came to his home to thank him.

“I was a little embarrassed, but proud at the same time,” said Felton. “I’m a quiet person. I’m not used to it.”

Currently a CYS Program Assistant at Hohenfels, Felton graduated from Hohenfels American High School in 1999. After graduation, Felton joined the Army and served as a Veterinary Food Inspection Specialist. Upon separating from the Army, he returned to Hohenfels where he managed the SurfNet Café and was the assistant manager of the bakery department in the Hohenfels Commissary before taking his present position. Felton and his wife Shannon have three children, Jonathan, 6, Titan, 3, and Lucian, 2.



Photo by Alice Adler

Lt. Col. James Matheson and Bernadette Heimler join in a round of applause as Benedict Felton receives his award.

Social Work Services program key to successful reintegration

by Kathy Jordan

Bavarian News

After service members return from duty in the desert, one part of the reintegration process is a five-minute interview with Social Work Services.

The purpose of the interview is to discuss issues that are related to Soldiers’ personal experiences downrange. Based on these interviews, social workers make follow-up appointments with Soldiers that need help readjusting after combat.

Another follow-up appointment is held three months after the Soldier’s initial return from combat duty, and a survey is conducted to see how Soldiers are readjusting outside of the combat environment.

Recent findings showed that 21 percent of those surveyed said they were still experiencing significant problems.

After seeing these results, Social Work Services began doubling their efforts to make sure Soldiers that needed assistance were aware of the services available to them.

“We got out there and started doing more community efforts. We went to commanders for assistance and Family Readiness Group meetings talking to Soldiers, just trying to get them in to see us. Many Soldiers responded and came in,” said social worker Amy Parke.

Many of the Soldiers that visited the center discussed topics like anger, mood swings and sleeping problems associated with deployment.

“Lt. Col. Michael Todd recognized that this problem was still going on, so at the eight-month mark we went back and we had a three-part series in the theater which talked about good coping skills and how to deal with different things,” said Parke.

Another survey was conducted at that time, and showed that 43 percent of the Soldiers surveyed were having different types of issues related to deployment.

“After seeing these numbers we came up with a program that we basically borrowed from the Veterans Administration program called ‘Seeking Safety.’ This program is being used by the VA to talk to Soldiers about what they have experienced,” said Parke.

From that program model, Social Work Services designed a unique program called, “Seeking Safety-Repairing the Armor,” which teaches coping skills that deal with many types of issues such as nightmares and anger problems.

The classes are scheduled to start in the middle of January, and Soldiers’ participation will help develop the design and structure of the class material that will be offered.

“We will have a series of classes where Soldiers come in and tell us the problems they may be having. For example, if Soldiers come in and tell us they have been having a problem with



Photo by Kathy Jordan

Left to right: social worker Amy Parke, ASAP social worker Steve Parke and Social Work Services supervisor Ted Olejnik will be part of “Seeking Safety-Repairing the Armor” classes.

sleep, we will design a class on sleep problems. If they are having a problem with anger, we will have a class on how to deal with anger, and so on,” said Parke.

The classes are designed to help both Soldiers and their families.

“We call it ‘Repairing the Armor.’ We want to help repair these Soldiers so they are good for their mission and they are good Soldiers.

We also want them to be good family members and good husbands and fathers and mothers,” said Parke.

The classes will benefit Soldiers’ emotional well-being according to Parke.

“Day-after-day I get Soldiers coming into my office and they are in pain. They have experienced things they never thought they would experience. They are prepared physically and mentally, and they know what to do when under attack. It’s the insidious enemy that keeps attacking them in their sleep over-and-over again that they are not prepared

for emotionally.”

Parke has worked with veterans from the Vietnam War and those from Iraq. She sees these classes as a chance to give help to those in need.

“We got the Vietnam veterans some 30 years

after the fact. We did not recognize post-traumatic stress disorder. We are not saying that any of these Soldiers have that. But it can develop into that if not taken care of; that is what happened in Vietnam. It was not taken care of...here we see an opportunity to work with the Soldiers.

We are teaching them coping skills now,” said Parke.

There will also be a class for spouses that will help them with coping methods and other matters.

The services offered are confidential. Classes will be held at Vilseck’s FRG building. For information call DSN 476-2100 or Civilian 09662-83-2100.

In Briefs

VA briefings resume

USAG Grafenwoehr Army Career & Alumni Program has representatives from the Department of Veterans Affairs returning to Germany to offer informational briefings to separating and retiring Soldiers and their families. The first two events will be held in the USAG Graf area at Hohenfels Jan. 24 and Rose Barracks Jan. 25. Both briefings scheduled from 9 a.m. to noon.

Topics include disability benefits, Montgomery GI Bill, Vocational Rehabilitation, Home Loan Program and more. If you are separating or retiring within the next six months, don’t miss this informative event. Contact ACAP at 476-2055 for further info and to reserve a seat.

LaMafia at Hohenfels

LaMafia, a Texas Based Latin Music band, will be performing at Hohenfels Jan. 25. Check your local media for location and time. Free entrance for all ID card holders.

Red Cross classes

The following classes are being offered in Vilseck and Graf during January 2006:

Jan. 17, 9:30-11:30 a.m., Volunteer Orientation Grafenwoehr Office

Jan. 21, 27, 28, First Aid/CPR/AED Inst. Course Vilseck Office, cost is \$75.

Pre-payment is required for all Health and Safety classes. Please stop by the Vilseck or Graf office to make payment. Check or money orders please. If you have any question please call the Vilseck office at 476-1760.

Vilseck PMOC Meetings

Vilseck Men of the Chapel, (PMOC) meet for breakfast, followed by Praise, Worship and Study, 8-10 a.m., 2nd and 4th Saturday each month (holiday weekends by agreement).

The 2nd Saturday, they meet with the Graf PMOC in Building 555 in Grafenwoehr. The 4th Saturday they meet in Vilseck at the Main Chapel Fellowship Hall, Bldg. 218. POC Brian Wrede, 09665-520, or Chapel office, 476-1570.

Women’s self-defense class

Class is every 2nd Saturday of the month, bldg. 221, 1-4 p.m. Costs: \$36. Adults only. For more Info call DSN 476-2214/2998 or CIV 09641-929769

Vilseck storytime

Come to the Vilseck library for Preschool storytime every Wednesday morning at 10 a.m. Stories and crafts for preschoolers.

POC is Karen Beck at DSN 476-1740.

Vilseck Health Clinic \$2 million project will provide patients with quality service

by Kathy Jordan
Bavarian News

Since November 2005, the Vilseck Health Clinic has been undergoing some major changes in order to provide quality services to patrons. The renovations are scheduled to be completed by July 2006.

“Medical command has looked at a lot of different options to try and right-size this clinic. Ideally, this will be done by the time our population is back up to full strength which will be sometime in July 2006,” said Vilseck clinic commander Maj. George M. Kyle.

The project cost around \$2 million and will provide the clinic with new office space in the

current building. The new changes will be made so the clinic meets the same standards as other medical facilities.

“Every single existing surface will be redone or at least painted. There will be new floors and ceiling fixtures. Some office spaces will be expanded, and some waiting areas will be converted into offices,” said Kyle.

The renovations have been taking place in different parts of the clinic so patient care will not be interrupted.

“The renovations are being done in phases. We are trying to stagger the phases so patients can still be seen. The waiting room was finished first, the radiology section has just been completed, and the records room and front desk will

be next,” said Kyle.

The changes at the clinic are meant to make the patient and doctor experience more beneficial and time effective.

“When these phases are complete, a patient can come in and be screened. A provider can then go from exam room A to exam room B with a patient already waiting for them. The way it is now you have one exam room and one provider. This means when you finish with patient A, you tear the paper off the exam table, clean the room, wash your hands and then call the next patient. That takes time away from our services,” said Kyle.

The medical staff asks that patrons have patience during this time of transition.

“The clinic is going in the right direction because it gets us closer to where we need to be as far as two exam rooms per provider. It gives us a better and cleaner look. It will be better for the patient as far as patient flow is concerned,” said Kyle.

The changes being made will be worth the wait for patrons of the clinic according to Kyle. “There are a lot of things that are changing in the Vilseck clinic, some of them are visible and some of them are not visible. We ask that you have patience with us as we make these changes because when we are finished it will be a much smoother process and improved quality of care.”

CYS gears programs toward home-schoolers

by Kathy Jordan
Bavarian News

“We have some new programs we have marketed toward home-schoolers. CYS has always offered support to home-schoolers by letting them participate in our regular programs.

We think there is a pretty large population of home-schoolers here,” said outreach services director Cheryl Martin-Greathouse.

The home-school programs will begin in February in Grafenwoehr and Vilseck. The classes will be located in the teen centers and school age services buildings.

There are a variety of programs scheduled on different days of the week that may be of interest to families that participate in the programs.

“We will open the centers at special times for home-school children to come in and utilize the

programs. We are trying to set things up so there is at least one activity a week,” said Greathouse.

Participation from families in the local communities will help CYS monitor the progress of these programs. The programs are scheduled to take place during the day, when other children are in school.

“We believe there is a need for these programs. We know that there are families that home-school. We just thought we would put this out there to see if it was something they were in-



Cheryl Martin-Greathouse

terested in,” Greathouse said.

Parents will play a major role in the success of the program according to Greathouse. “Parents will need to provide transportation for their children. We are also recommending that parents remain on-site for some of this programming.”

One example of the parents’ involvement and participation may be in the technology lab. There will be a technology specialist on-site doing programming in the center. During the two-hour block of time there will be open lab. Home-schooling parents can supplement the curriculum program they use with the computer services in the lab.

“We want this to be a resource to parents that are home-schooling. We have some specific programs, but we want to leave it open to parents to decide what parts they want to use,” said Greathouse.

The goal of the CYS programs is a simple

one. “We want to be a means of support. We would like to see these programs expand. We want this to be a positive experience for everyone involved,” she said.

There are some benefits to home-schoolers who decide to participate in these programs. “There are some great home-school curriculums out there. These programs will give children a chance to interact with other instructors and it offers parents a fresh setting for children to learn in,” Greathouse said.

All of these programs are free to home-schoolers. All participants must be registered to reserve a slot for the programs. There are also new instructional fee-based programs that will begin in February, including KinderGym, Yoga Youngsters and piano lessons.

For more information contact Cheryl Martin-Greathouse at DSN 476-3376 or e-mail her at cheryl.l.martin@graf.eur.army.mil.

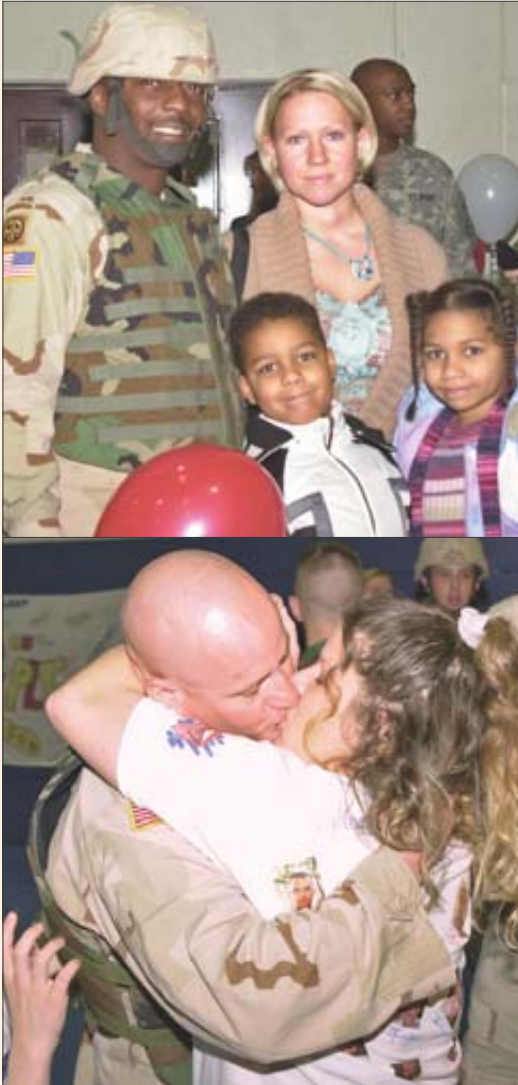
Holiday wishes come true for 11th Trans

Photos by Nick D’Amario
USAG Grafenwoehr Public Affairs

Soldiers of the 11th Transportation company rolled into Graf in the wee hours Dec. 22, 2005, to the thrill and delight of fellow Soldiers, family members and friends after a nearly year-long deployment in Iraq.

Back in the time for the holidays. It doesn’t get better than that.

Stars and Stripes and AFN-Bavaria coverage of their return was outstanding, and the Training Times issue came out the day before they returned, so we’ll indulge readers with some photos of our returning heroes here on this page.



A Day in the Life: Education Center

Article and photos by Alice Adler
Bavarian News

Whenever someone walks into the Education Center in Hohenfels, they are greeted with smiles and friendly faces. That's because the folks who work here love their jobs and are eager to serve the Soldiers and family members of the Hohenfels community.

This small building, tucked away in a corner by the Post Office, has a big job to do. The Education Center's mission is to assist everyone in the Hohenfels community with their education goals in any way possible. One service offered is the Army Learning Center, previously known as the MOS Library. The ALC helps Soldiers manage their Army education with a fully-automated center that allows Soldiers to take Army correspondence and college courses on-line, and helps them track their Army College Transcript.

In addition, the ALC comes equipped with Jeanette VerHaar, the ALC Academic Instructor. Starting this month, the ALC and VerHaar will be offering 2-week long GT Prep classes. These half-day classes will help Soldiers on an individual level with improving their General Technical scores. VerHaar offers evaluations of what the Soldier needs to work on, then works with the Soldier in areas where they need improvement. These evaluations and tutoring programs can be used by Soldiers who want to prepare themselves before entering a college program as well.

The ALC also serves as a social center for Soldiers new to Hohenfels, in particular Reserve and National Guard Soldiers who are stationed here for their annual training. They can use the computers to connect with home anytime the center is open.

Another service the Education Center offers is the testing office. Any Army exam, including Army Placement Exams and the ASVAP are offered. All DANTES and CLEP tests, as well as

GED exams, certification testing and college entrance exams, are offered as well. Anyone enrolled in a college course that needs a test proctored can come here and use the testing center, too. All of the services of the center are free to users and are offered on an appointment basis. "If I don't have it – we can get it," said Kate Al-Azzawi who runs the testing center.

The Education Center has a full time counselor as well. Vernessa David-Brown helps and guides prospective students through the education maze. She can assess a student's skills and help point them in the right direction for the education they want and need.

"Students came to her and say: 'I want to get started and I don't know where to start,'" said Judie Mohr, the Education Services Officer.

The rest of the offices in the Education Center are filled with contracting schools. These colleges and universities have field representatives whose job it is to help students select the correct courses to get their degrees. The schools offer both traditional on-site courses in a classroom setting and distance learning classes using the internet. Students can work towards certificate programs, Associate's, Bachelor's or Master's degrees. The University of Oklahoma even offers a Doctorate program.

The field representatives stress that although they work for a particular school, their goal is to find the right fit for every student. "We try to explain all the opportunities they have for their education," said Embry Riddle Assistant Director of Operations Barbara Jenson. Central Texas College representative Vianne Newell echoes her sentiment: "We represent the school, but we work for the Soldier."

The representatives offer transcript services, registration, financial aid help and academic counseling. "It's like a college registrar office," said Newell. She goes on to note that the representatives offer a service that traditional college



Central Texas College field representative Vianne Newell talks with Geraol Miller about his class options.

registrars do not: evaluation and interpretation of military service for college credit. Most of the schools offer many classes worth of credits for military members based on their military education and experiences. The credits are free of charge and require no testing to obtain.

One of the Education Center's main jobs is to guide Soldiers through the Army's tuition assistance programs. Mohr points out that the Army pays 100 percent of tuition costs for active duty Soldiers for many degree programs. All a student needs to do is finish and pass the courses they sign up for. Mohr is anxious that all Soldiers who seek higher education succeed in the long run. "My philosophy is one class at a time," she said.

One popular program in the Army right now is EArmyU. This program has many important details and Mohr wants to make sure Soldiers understand all their options.

"We decided they would understand the program completely," said Mohr. Every Thursday at 9 a.m., the Education Center offers a briefing on EArmyU and the many details of this program. Through EArmyU students get not only 100 percent of their tuition covered at many colleges and universities, they also get their books paid for, and, in some cases, are given a laptop computer free of charge. "EArmyU is just one option for distance education," Mohr points out.

The Education Center also works closely with DoDDS and offers many services to high school students preparing to graduate. This year,

through an Education Center Open House, all of the Seniors from Hohenfels High School were given "College 101," a how-to course on higher education. This year the Education Center hopes to do the same program for Juniors as well.

With all this activity swirling around, the Hohenfels Education Center remains a friendly and happy place. "Here you are not a number, not a last name," said Mohr. "Education – the process – is hard. It can be hard for people to walk through that door." Mohr emphasizes that because Hohenfels is a small place the staff in the

Education Center can wait on students right away. "We don't ever let a Soldier just stand in the hall," she said. She also credits the staff members with making the Education Center a friendly place. "We have a really good team, a really good relationship."

Finally, Mohr would like to emphasize that the Education Center is not just for Soldiers. "Our center is for

everybody." Family members are encouraged to use the services the Center provides as well. Staff members can help family members with their education options, as well as tuition assistance, scholarships and any other education issues.

Mohr knows many people beginning the education process will have questions. "What is a semester hour, for example?" Rest assured that the warm and friendly Education Center will have the answers to all your questions. "We want you to be comfortable to come in and ask us all about it!"

"We have a really good team, a really good relationship."



David Amberson makes use of the computers available in the Army Learning Center.

UMUC-Europe term 3 registration begins Jan. 16

HEIDELBERG, GERMANY – University of Maryland University College-Europe announces the beginning of Term 3 registration.

Students have the option of registering online or through their local field representatives through Jan. 13.

Students can earn certificates, and associate, bachelor's, and master's degrees in a broad selection of disciplines – many classes available online. Additionally, UMUC-Europe accepts a variety of financial aid sources, including military tuition assistance, VA benefits, employer tuition remission, loans, and grants. UMUC-Europe also offers a variety of scholarships to help pay for courses. Term 3 on-site classes run from Jan. 16 through March 11, and online distance education courses run from Jan. 23 to May 13.

First-time students are also invited to visit local education centers and complete an application for admission to begin their degree program.

While many students face concerns of long deployments or familial obligations, the UMUC programs provide a variety of methods to facilitate degree completion. Moreover, UMUC-Europe offers various options for earning college credit through cooperative education and prior learning.

UMUC-Europe offers numerous program choices at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. In addition to choosing from a variety of local courses, students are also eligible to take part in distance education courses offered through UMUC in Europe. Students with questions regarding veterans educational benefits, financial aid, or transfer credit are encouraged to visit their local education center for assistance.

There, they can find additional information on degrees and courses. For more information, students may also visit the UMUC-Europe Website at www.ed.umuc.edu.

3-day enterpreneur workshop is free

USAG Grafenwoehr Public Affairs

If you've ever considered going into business on your own, such as setting up your own shop or service on-base or on the German economy, then the Entrepreneur's Workshop may be right up your alley.

The free 3-day workshop will introduce participants to the development of business concepts, structure of a business/marketing plan, market and competitor analysis, legal requirements and pre-requisites for a business here in Germany, and much more.

If you're a spouse, contractor, military retiree, or a civilian who wants to stay in Europe but may not be extended, then the workshop offers you entrepreneurial food for thought.

The workshop will be conducted at the Gruenderzentrum, a business development agency located just outside of Graf's gate #6,

and will occur late January. The workshop requires a minimum of three people to sign up, and input from folks registering for the workshop will determine the actual dates for participation.

The Gruenderzentrum is a business startup agency established in 1996 by the state of Bavaria. Christine Pollath is the business manager, and Gabriele Murry will conduct the workshop.

Murry's qualifications include Masters degrees in Human Relations (M.H.R.) and Business Administration (M.B.A.), and eight years as a branch chief for the U.S. Army. She is an assistant professor with the University of Applied Sciences, Amberg-Weiden.

For more information, contact Gabriele Murry at 09641-929514 or e-mail g.w.murry@t-online.de

USAG Grafenwoehr DFAC best in Army

Secret ingredient to success not always in the food

Aricle and photos by Nick D’Amario
USAG Grafenwoehr Public Affairs

By now, everyone has heard about the dining facility in Camp Normandy that rocked and shocked the Army’s culinary ranks with its surprise win of the 38th Philip A. Connelly Awards Program in the Large Garrison Dining Facility Category after a mere nine months of operation.

Winning the prestigious Connelly Award is no walk in the park, and requires that a DFAC meet stringent standards that are broken down into categories:

Food preparation and sanitation: 50 percent.

Layout, design, and décor: 30 percent.

Administration: 10 percent.

Leadership, command emphasis: 10 percent.

As early as 2002, food program manager Joyce Toney, DFAC manager Gerhard Bessner, Efficiency Basing-East Graf project manager Steven Dun, and Army Center of Excellence Goldie Bailey, developed numerous improvements on the Army’s standard design by modifying office and storage space as well as configurations for the DFAC entrance and short order and main line setups. Six months later their proposals were approved by the Army Center of Excellence, and then it was wait-and-see until March 14, 2005, when the first customers walked in – and the test of their recipe for success had begun.

The rest is, shall we say, sweet history.

“The Connelly Award is a super bowl award for food services,” said Toney, referring to the award they will be receiving in Miami, in April.

It will be presented by BG Mark A. Bellini, the U.S. Army Quartermaster Corps General from Fort Lee, VA.

While the DFAC is relatively new in its operation, Toney and Bessner first crossed culinary

DFAC Manager at Graf’s 8551st Civilian Support Group.

And with Gerardo Martinez, food services officer, on staff, there’s hardly any chance of their ever running out of milk or eggs.

Shift leader Arthur Turner lauded Bessner’s leadership with: “His experience in food services means a lot because he observes things people don’t see – the little things that can make the biggest difference sometimes.”

In addition to three squares a day, the DFAC also organizes special ethnic and holiday menus. If you attended their Thanksgiving or Christmas meal in 2005, then you already know what this talented, friendly and professional culinary team is capable of.

The lion’s share of customers is comprised of 350 Soldiers from the Warrior Leaders Course, when in session, and as of Dec. 9, per a memo issued by the USAG Grafenwoehr commander, civilians employees and retirees are among select categories that can also treat their palates to fine cuisine here. If you’re uncertain of whether you can eat at their DFAC, call DSN 475-8785/8787 to find out.

And the only consideration they would ask, for indulging you with some of the finest food in the Army is: “When you eat at the DFAC and see something good, thank the cooks. Thank the manager. The people work hard and are very responsive to the customers,” said Toney.

Toney also gave credit to the shift leaders for their day-to-day successful operations:

“They are the main movers in the kitchen and on the floor.”

“As far as the entire DFAC team is concerned, from the DOL point-of-view, they are very Soldier-oriented, often with short-time fused missions. How they do it, I’m not sure, but they get it done. They are outstanding,” said Jose Rodriguez, acting director of logistics.

And on their winning the Connelly award, he said: “Everyone works together as a team effort. If you don’t have a strong team and chain of command support, you can’t win.”

“None of this would have been possible without our fantastic team,” said Bessner. “I thank my employees for the great work they do for our Soldiers and the community each and every day,” he said.

“Running for the award wasn’t hard because we perform with excellence every day,” said Albert.

Amen and bon appetite.

Editor’s note: Current plans include the following DFAC members traveling to the U.S. for the Philip A. Connelly award presentation in April: Bessner, Toney, Gebhardt, Albert, Martinez, and shift leaders Turner and Charles Lavatta. Also expected to attend are the USAG Grafenwoehr commander and the JMTC senior tactical commander.



The USAG Graf command presented the DFAC with a formidable trophy for their culinary achievement. From left to right: Joyce Toney, Vera Gebhardt, Arthur Turner, Gerhard Bessner, Sgt. 1st Class Jacqueline Albert, and Gerardo Martinez.

paths back in 1987 when the then Sgt. 1st Class Toney of the CATC Vilseck DFAC “ran out of eggs or milk or something and borrowed them from Mr. Bessner,” she said. Bessner was then

With 24 years of prior military service and on board with the DFAC since Sep 2005, Martinez is also concerned with “making sure the food is good quality, and looking after employee welfare and morale, employee motivation and recognition,” adding that “Bessner and Albert have been an inspiration and tremendous knowledge-base for me to excel in my job.”

And in getting ready for the competition, Bessner complimented George Holland, assistant DFAC Manager with “he was instrumental in working with the DFAC team to ensure all preparations for the Connelly competition was done.”

In addition to being recognized as the best large DFAC in the Army, they also have a staffer who is their esteemed Cook-of-the-Year: Vera Gebhardt. “No matter where she is, she will make a difference,” said Sgt. 1st Class Jacqueline Albert, the DFAC NCOIC.

And as the DFAC opened for lunch Jan. 3, the Czech-born Gebhardt was working the main line, and, in keeping with Albert’s comment, magically drawing smiles from every person she served, no matter what demeanor or disposition they brought to the line.



Vera Gebhardt, Cook-of-the-Year, brings a smile to all DFAC customers’ faces with her superb customer service skills.

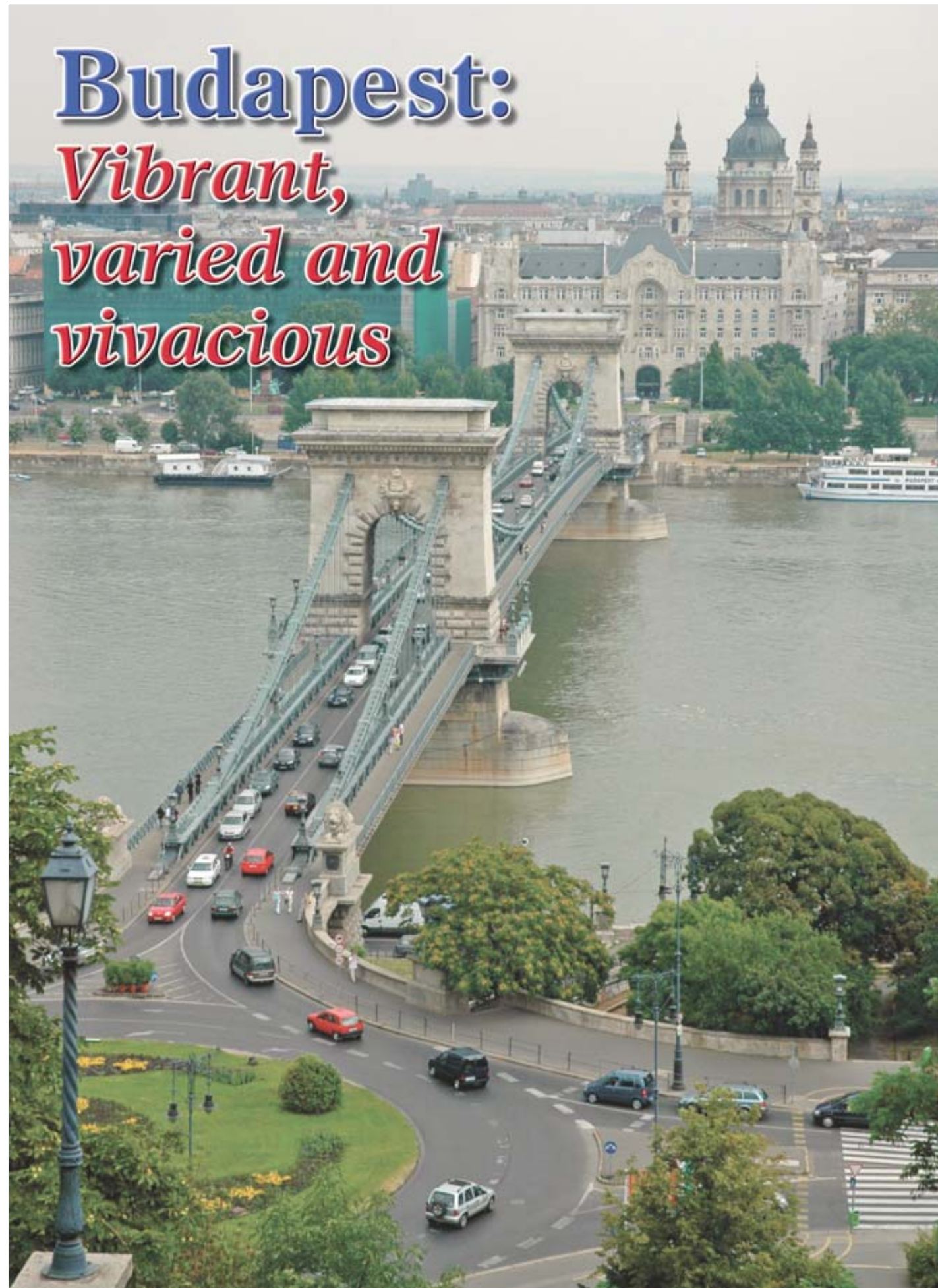


Headcount Pfc. Timothy Brey assists Pfc. Sherenda Bowers and Staff Sgt. Odis Robinson as they sign in. Bowers said the DFAC “staff is real friendly,” and Robinson added that “they have a very good selection of food.”



Photo by Nick D’Amario

J. R. Meier and Elizabeth Watsek present Gerhard Bessner with a framed event patch from the recent Order of the Arrow Leadership Conference to thank him and his USAG Graf DFAC staff for their support of a Scouting event. The event brought senior Boy Scouts from all over Europe to join in some fun (shot gun shooting under the tutelage of Anton ‘Tony’ Grimm) and some leadership and development training for the Lodge’s youth leaders.



The beautiful Chain Bridge is probably the most photographed of Budapest's many bridges.

Article and photos by Alice Adler
Bavarian News

Europe's Danube River winds through some of the most beautiful cities in the world, and one of the most vibrant, varied and interesting of these cities is the Hungarian capital of Budapest.

This incredible city was originally two cities: hilly, residential *Buda* on the west bank of the Danube, and flatter but more lively *Pest* on the east. In 1873 the two cities joined to form the city we now know as Budapest.

Travelers to Budapest will find so much to do that the average vacation will still leave many sights unseen. Both sides of the river provide days of things to see and do, so jump right in and start exploring.



The Running Man statue is just one of the dozens of Communist-era statues that has been dumped in a field on the outskirts of Budapest.

Budapest is awash in majestic architecture, but one of the most imposing buildings along the banks of the Danube is the Hungarian Parliament building. An excellent guided tour allows visitors to see one of the most impressive government buildings in Europe. Inside, the lavish décor will stun even the most jaded traveler. The ceiling, wall and floors are all worth a closer look. The greatest treasures of Hungarian history, the 1,000-year-old crown jewels of St. Stephen, were moved here in the year 2000 to allow visitors to see them.

On the Buda side of the river, the most imposing sight is the Castle

District. This raised hill that overlooks the river is home to churches, museums and some of the oldest buildings in Budapest. Here the visitor will find the Matthias Church, which has been destroyed and rebuilt numerous times in its history and even served as a mosque for 145 years while the Turks ruled Hungary. Outside the church, a large statue of Budapest's favorite son, St. Stephen, stands in front of the Fisherman's Bastion. While this white stone structure is mainly decorative, its heights afford one of the best views of the city.

It is immediately clear that the Danube River is the lifeblood of this magnificent city, and residents of Buda and Pest have spanned their mighty river with several picturesque bridges. Perhaps the most photographed bridge is the picturesque Chain Bridge.

Built in 1840 by a Scotsman who was so enamored of Budapest that he spent the remainder of his life there, the Chain Bridge was the first permanent bridge across the river and so has an important place in the history of the city. A stroll across the Chain Bridge is practically mandatory while visiting Budapest.

Like every great European city, Budapest has its share of fabulous churches and cathedrals to visit. Additionally, Budapest is home to the largest Synagogue in Europe (and the second largest in the world).

Dohany Synagogue is a striking building, with a lavishly decorated and ornate interior, complete with a balcony and an organ, an unusual addition to a synagogue. This beautiful building has a tragic side as well. In 1944 20,000 Jews took up residence in the Synagogue complex in an attempt to seek refuge from Nazi deportations. During that hard winter 7,000

people died there, and they are buried in the courtyard. A memorial stands to the fallen.

Like any city, Budapest had loads of history to explore. Some of the more recent history of Budapest can be explored at two of the more unusual tourist sights in Europe.

The House of Terror may possibly be one of the most unique museums you have ever seen. It is housed in Andrássy Street 60, the building that contained the offices and torture chambers of first the occupying Nazi party during World War II, then the feared secret police during the communist era. Part museum, part art installation and part monument, the House of Terror traces the history of the Nazi party and the Communist party in Hungary and outlines atrocities they visited upon its citizens. The audio guide tour ends in the basement where the cells and torture chambers can be seen.

The scraps of the Communist regime can be viewed at the interesting Statue Park. During the years of Soviet rule, thousands of mass-produced statues glorifying the heroes and legends of the Communist party were erected all over Eastern Europe.

With the fall of the Berlin Wall, the newly freed people of the Eastern block were left wondering what to do with these eyesores. The citizens of Budapest had a creative solution: they scooped up many of these unattractive monuments and dumped them all in a run-down park on the outskirts of Budapest. The people's contempt for the regime these monuments signify is clear in the weedy, statue filled part. The sheer ridiculousness of these massive figures is made crystal-clear when the visitor is able to see them all unceremoniously tossed together.

If all of this visiting of incredible and interesting sites has worn you out, you can relax in one of Budapest's many thermal baths. The most spectacular baths are the Gellert baths, located in the Hotel Gellert. The baths are like something out of an exotic dream with statues, marble columns, decorative tile work, and stone lion heads spouting water. There you can relax in the outdoor wave pool, the indoor pool or one of the thermal Turkish baths. Massages and other beauty treatments are offered as well.

There is so much more to see and do in this wonderful city. Danube cruises give visitors a romantic evening tour of the city. Shopping in one of the many outdoor markets yields many inexpensive Hungarian handicrafts. A visit to Budapest will likely inspire you to come again – to catch all the sights you missed the first time around in this exciting city.



St. Stephen, the patron saint of Budapest, is everywhere in this exotic city.



Every time you turn a corner in Budapest you come upon another architectural surprise. The Church of St. Stephen is home to a relic of the city's patron saint – his withered hand.



Matthias Church stands on the crest of Castle Hill overlooking the river and the city below.

Homecoming

Continued from page 1

“I’m here to see my Dad come home. I missed him. The first thing I am going to do is go hug him,” said 10-year-old Tony Dearman.

Many spouses looked back on the year and counted their blessings and good fortune.

“I’m excited about them coming home. This was his second time there. I’m ready to see my husband and I am happy they are all making it home safely,” said Audrey Carpenter.

Spouse Tonia Dearman added, “This was his first time going there. The first thing I want us to do as a family is pray together.”

Others had a lot of memories from the past year they could not wait to share with their Soldiers. “This was my husband’s second time down there. I can’t wait to hold him, kiss him, catch up on things that have happened this year and give him these five kids,” said spouse Stephanie Taylor.

“I’m so excited. I am nervous right now...I’m excited because this is his second time going to Iraq and this time he is coming back with everybody else and it’s exciting,” said Melissa Abed-nego, 19, about her father’s return.

At home, many of the Soldiers’ favorite meals had been prepared and ready for the special event.

“I want to tell my wife I love her and welcome back. This is her third trip down there, the second time with this unit. It was a rough year. Dinner’s already cooked, all she has to do is come in and relax,” said spouse Sgt. 1st Class Gregory Jamerson.

Soldiers coming from downrange talked about how it felt being back.

“It feels great being back. It’s time. The first thing I am going to do is pray, and then I’m going to take a shower and relax,” said Sgt. Chris Clarke.

“The first thing I want to do is get some rest, and catch up on my football games. Go Washington Redskins,” said Spc. Crystal Lynch.

“It feels great being back; I am not in the desert anymore. My husband just deployed downrange. It’s kind of bitter-sweet because now I am going home to an empty house, but it’s okay. This was my second rotation and this will be his first,” said Spc. Thamarian Reed-Cyrus.

Some Soldiers from 94th that returned earlier that morning came out to greet their comrades. “I came back with the first group this morning...I came here tonight because I wanted to support my fellow team members from 3rd Squad Maintenance and everybody else in HSC,” said Spc. Michael Rogers.

At their welcome home ceremony, Col. Boyle included a safety message in his speech: “Wear your seatbelts and be careful on the road. You’ve been away from home for a year. When you go out with your buddies, use a designated driver. We don’t need to lose you now after the year you have been away.”

Editor’s Note: Look for further coverage of the 94th return, to include coverage of the 535th, on the command channel and in the Jan. 25 issue of Bavarian News.



Photo by Nick D’Amario

Stripes reporter Seth Robson interviews Spc. Romualdo Portes, 29, of Charleston, S.C. His children are Alyssa, 6, and Alexander, 3.



Photo by Kathy Jordan

Tykeara Williams, 18-months-old, and her father, Pfc. Johnnie Williams. Tykeara dressed like her Dad in support of his arrival from down range.



Photo by Nick D’Amario

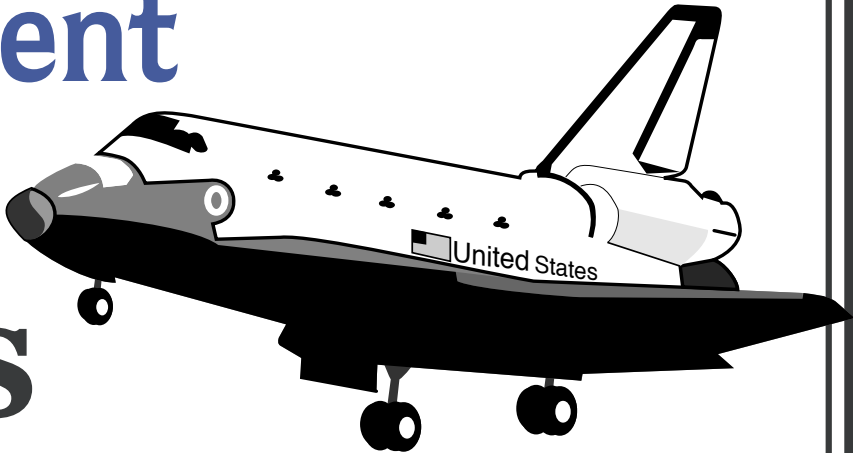
1st Sgt. Joe Constante looks forward to “integrating and taking some vacation.” Pictured with wife, Teresa, and son, David.



Photo by Nick D’Amario

Soldiers wasted no time grabbing gear from the bus and getting ready for their ceremony once they touched down in Vilseck.

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German culture 101: Germans and their pets

Host nation owners adore their pets; take good care of them

by Martina Bias
Special to the Bavarian News

When people are asked about German pets, many would probably think of the beautiful German Shepard, the Saint Bernard rescuing people in the Alps, or the German hunting breed called “Weimeraner” (named after the town “Weimar”). Curiously, when I think of a typical Bavarian dog, I picture a small Dackel (dachshund) sitting in a Biergarten with his owner who is enjoying his favorite beer.

It is a known fact that Germans adore their pets and take extremely good care of them. Dogs, for example, are taken everywhere. It’s not unusual to see them at restaurants and inside stores. The only place I know that has a sign that asks dogs to stay outside is the butcher (for obvious reasons). Many people believe that your dog is actually welcomed more places than your kids. A fact well documented by a hotel in Austria which does not allow children as guests, however, dogs are no problem. As reason for that unusual policy the hotel owner states that “dogs are much better behaved.”

However, German dog owners are forced by the government to be very responsible. All dogs have to be registered and vaccinated against rabies, as this is prevalent in many areas among

wildlife. Hunters have the right to shoot any dog (or cat for that matter) that is unsupervised, too far from any residence or chasing the wild animals.

You will also see signs in many parks pointing out the strict “pooper-scooper” laws. In popular dog-walking areas, vending machines for bags and scoops, as well as bins are provided to help you dispose of your dog’s waste.

German dog owners even have to pay a dog tax and take out insurance in case their pet causes any physical harm to people or other pets, or causes an accident or damage of any other kind.

The tragic death of a six-year-old Turkish boy in Hamburg at the hands of a pit-bull terrier and a Staffordshire terrier in July 2000 provoked the German authorities into action, after a growing number of children had been attacked by fighting dogs. Since then, a number of measures have been introduced on a regional level to control how dangerous dogs are kept. These include stricter implementation of the requirement that certain dogs are to be kept on a leash in public, and that certain dogs are muzzled. Some breeds are not allowed anymore at all and some have to pass a “temperament test” in order to be evaluated.

Even with all the requirements in place that are supposed to ensure the well-being of animals, there is still the occasional neglect or abandonment of pets. Especially in the weeks after Christmas, or by the time summer vacation rolls around, some pets that have become “impractical” and are abandoned at the parking areas along the Autobahn or in parks. When these cases become public, there is always a big outcry and the perpetrator is punished with a large fine.

The good news is that Germans have provided a more humane way to part with an animal that, for whatever reason, can not be kept anymore. Responsible pet owners can drop off their animal directly at the Tierheim (literally: animal home) – operated by the German Humane Society. Fortunately, pets at the Tierheim have a better fate than their American counterparts. Germans don’t put the animals in the shelter to sleep. They are kept and cared for until they are adopted or die a natural death. You might think that it is cruel to keep an animal locked up in a kennel all of its life, but the German Tierheims don’t operate that way. They have become a place where many who are not able or allowed to keep pets at their home, can enjoy spending time with an animal. You can go to the Tierheim and take a dog for a walk or play with him. You find young people, as well as retirees, taking advantage of this opportunity – no doubt a win-win situation for both the human and the animal.

Many Tierheims also earn extra income by offering to board pets for a small fee. We left our dogs at the Amberg Tierheim during our last summer vacation and they got spoiled by all the attention and walks that were given to them.

For more information, you can call the Amberg Tierheim at 09621-82600 between 10 am and noon or 5 and 7 pm. – make reservations early as they only have a limited amount of space available.

However, please understand that some Tierheims are hesitant to work with Americans. I have personally been told that they do not like it when Americans adopt any of their animals because they have noticed in the past that they usu-



ally see those exact pets again when it is time for the service members to return to the U.S.

As far as cats go, Germans believe that their nature demands that they are allowed outdoors and that it would be cruel to lock them up. The young cat of our German neighbor got killed by a passing car just a few weeks ago. I had the sad task to inform the owner of this unfortunate accident. As upset as she was about her pet’s death, she stated that she had just started to let her go outside because “it is just not right to deprive an animal of that experience.”

Germans vets will not de-claw cats, either. They believe that this “amputating” is cruel and inhumane as well.

Germans love their pets just like Americans do, so please be aware of the local laws and customs regarding these treasured animals. They allow you to spend more time with your beloved friend when out and about and want to ensure that he or she is well taken care of.

German cooking 101: Recipes for Wurstsalat

by Martina Bias
Special to the Bavarian News

Now that the holidays with all the big elaborate meals are behind us, you might be longing for some simpler fare.

Let’s take our cue from the Germans, who in general eat lightly in the evening. Their typical dinner consists of cold cuts, cheese and bread. For a fun-and-tasty variation, they may prepare a cold salad of marinated meat products, sometimes paired with cheese and other ingredients.

As the sausage of choice for Wurstsalat (literally: sausage salad) most Germans would reach for Fleischwurst (you may substitute Bologna or hot dogs) or Krakauer (similar to Cotto Salami). The cheeses they like to pair with are Emmentaler and Gouda (Swiss cheese will work as well).

I have chosen two different recipes of Wurstsalat for you today. The first one is a simple version, typical for this Bavarian region. The second recipe highlights a salad more varied in flavor and offers a colorful presentation, pretty enough for even a party.

Both are best made ahead so that the main ingredients have time to marinate.

So, the next time you are in the mood for a fuss-free and light meal, give this German favorite a try. It is best served along some fresh Broetchen, Bauernbrot (German Farmer’s Bread) or even a big soft German Brezen (pretzel).

Guten Appetit!

Bayerischer Wurstsalat

350 g Fleischwurst, sliced (this will equal about 2 ½ cups)
2 small onions, sliced thinly
4 Tbs. oil
2 Tbs. wine vinegar
¼ tsp. sugar
¼ tsp. salt
⅓ tsp. pepper
2 Tbs. chopped fresh chives

If using Fleischwurst, peel first and then slice. In a medium bowl, mix sausage slices and onion rings. In a small bowl, whisk oil, vinegar, sugar, salt and pepper. Pour over sausage and onions and mix well. Cover and let sit in the refrigerator for at least 30 minutes. Just prior to serving, sprinkle with chopped chives. Serve with fresh bread or German Brezen.

Yield: 3 servings



bowl, whisk oil, vinegar, sugar, salt and pepper. Pour over sausage and onions and mix well. Cover and let sit in the refrigerator for at least 30 minutes. Just prior to serving, sprinkle with chopped chives. Serve with fresh bread or German Brezen.

Yield: 3 servings

Mixed Wurstsalat

200 g Krakauer, cut into strips (this will equal about 1 ½ cups)
150 g Gouda, cut into strips (this is equal to about 7-8 slices of Swiss cheese)
1 green onion, cut in half lengthwise and sliced
½ diced pickles (of your choice – Germans prefer sweet pickles)

4 Tbs. pickle juice
2 Tbs. oil
1 Tbs. mustard
⅓ tsp salt
⅓ tsp. pepper

Place sausage strips, cheese strips, green onion and diced pickles in medium bowl. Whisk oil, pickle juice, salt, pepper and mustard in a small bowl and pour over salad ingredients. Mix well and cover. Let marinate for at least 2 hours. Serve with fresh bread.

Yield: 2 servings

Do you have a favorite German dish you would like to recreate at home? You can email me at martina.bias@us.army.mil, and I might be able to feature your requested recipe in one of the future issues.



Photos by Kathy Jordan

Members of Vilseck’s boy’s basketball team practice at Memorial Fitness Center in preparation for upcoming games on their schedule.

Youth Sports Basketball Schedule
USAG Grafenwoehr and Hohenfels

Jan. 11 – Feb. 25

Wed, Jan. 11 – (Grafenwoehr Field House, bldg 547)

Game	Level	Time	Teams
1	Bn	1800	(Graf) Diamonds Vs (Vil) Cavaliers

Thurs, 12 jan – (vilseck memorial fitness center, bldg #616)

Game	Level	Time	Teams
1	Bn	1800	(Vils) Cavaliers Vs (Vils) Wizards

Sat, Jan. 21 – (Hohenfels Post Gym, Bldg 88)

Game	Level	Time	Teams
1.	Bn	1000	(Graf) Diamonds Vs (Hohen) Panthers
2	Bn	1130	(Graf) Panthers Vs (Hohen) Bulls
3	Bn	1300	(Vils) Cavaliers Vs (Hohen) Heat
4	Bn	1430	(Vils) Wizards Vs (Hohen) Panthers
5	Jr	1300	(Graf) Tarheels Vs Schweinfurt #1 @ Schweinfurt At Ledward Barracks

6	Jr	1430	(Vil) Lakers Vs Schweinfurt #2 @ Schweinfurt At Ledward Barracks
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Sat, Jan. 28 – (Vilseck Memorial Fitness Center, Bldg 616)

Game	Level	Time	Teams
1	Bn	1000	(Graf) Panthers Vs (Vils) Wizards
2	Jr	1130	(Vils) Lakers Vs Schweinfurt #1 @ Vilseck Memorial Gym
3	Bn	1245	(Graf) Diamonds Vs (Vils) Cavaliers
4	Jr	1400	(Graf) Tarheels Vs Schweinfurt #2 @ Vilseck Memorial Gym

Sat, 4 Feb. – (Grafenwoehr Field House Bldg #547)

Game	Level	Time	Teams
1	Bn	1000	(Graf) Panthers Vs (Vils) Cavaliers
2	Bn	1115	(Vils) Wizards Vs (Graf) Diamonds
3	Jr	1115	(Vils) Lakers Vs Schweinfurt #2 @ Schweinfurt At Kessier Barracks
4	Jr	1230	(Graf) Tarheels Vs Winner Of Game #1 @ Schweinfurt At Kessier Barracks

Sat, 11 Feb. – (Vilseck Memorial Fitness Center, Bldg #616)

Game	Level	Time	Teams
1	Bn	1000	(Hohen) Heat Vs (Vils) Wizards
2	Bn	1115	(Hohen) Bulls Vs (Graf) Diamonds
3	Jr	1245	Bamberg- Heat Vs (Vils) Larkers
4	Jr	1400	Bamberg-T-Wolves Vs (Graf) Tarheels
5	Bn	1515	(Hohen) Panthers Vs (Vils) Cavaliers

Wed, 15 Feb. – (Grafenwoehr Field House Bldg #547)

Game	Level	Time	Teams
1	Bn	1800	(Graf) Panthers Vs (Graf) Diamonds

Thurs, 16 Feb. – (Vilseck Memorial Fitness Center, Bldg #616)

Game	Level	Time	Teams
1	Bn	1800	(Vils) Cavaliers Vs (Vils) Wizards

Wed, 22 Feb. – (Grafenwoehr Field House Bldg #547)

Game	Level	Time	Teams
1	Bn	1800	(Graf) Panthers Vs (Vils) Wizards

Thurs, 23 Feb. – (Vilseck Memorial Fitness Center, Bldg #616)

Game	Level	Time	Teams
1	Bn	1800	(Vils) Cavaliers Vs (Graf) Diamonds

Wed, 1 Mar – (Grafenwoehr Field House Bldg #547)

Game	Level	Time	Teams
1	Bn	1800	(Graf) Panthers Vs (Graf) Diamonds

Thurs, 2 Mar – (Vilseck Memorial Fitness Center, Bldg 616)

Game	Level	Time	Teams
1	Bn	1800	(Vils) Cavaliers Vs (Vils) Wizards

Wed, 8 Mar – (Grafenwoehr Field House Bldg 547)

Game	Level	Time	Teams
1	Bn	1800	(Vils) Cavaliers Vs (Graf) Diamonds

Thurs, 9 Mar – (Vilseck Memorial Fitness Center, Bldg 616)

Game	Level	Time	Teams
1	Bn	1800	(Graf) Panthers Vs (Vils) Wizards

Junior Basketball Championship
Feb. 25-26, Grafenwoehr, (Field House bldg 547.)

IMA-Euro Junior Basketball Championship, March 10-12, Mannheim.

*Bambinos Ages 3-5; bantams (Bn) ages 10-12; juniors (Jr) ages 13-15

Pee wee & Minor Basketball Scrimmage
Rose Barracks – SAS @ 6 p.m.
Graf – Elementary School @ 6 p.m.

January Schedule

Date	Level	Place	Teams
11 Jan.	Minor	Graf	G-Bucks Vs G-Clippers
12 Jan.	Minor	Vils	V-Lakers Vs V-Sonics
17 Jan.	Minor	Vils	G-Clippers Vs V-Lakers
18 Jan.	Minor	Graf	V-Sonics Vs G-Bucks
23 Jan.	Peewee	Graf	V-Jazz Vs G-T-Wolves
23 Jan.	Minor	Vils	G-Clippers Vs V-Sonics

25 Jan.	Minor	Graf	V-Lakers	Vs G-Bucks
30 Jan.	Peewee	Vils	G-T-Wolves	Vs V-Jazz
31 Jan.	Minor	Graf	V-Lakers	Vs G-Clippers

February Schedule

Date	Level	Place	Teams
2 Feb.	Minor	Vilseck	G-Bucks Vs V-Sonics
6 Feb.	Peewee	Graf	V-Jazz Vs G-T-Wolves
6 Feb.	Minor	Vilseck	V-Sonics Vs V-Lakers
8 Feb.	Minor	Graf	G-Clippers Vs G-Bucks
13 Feb.	Peewee	Graf	V-Jazz Vs G-T-Wolves
15 Feb.	Peewee	Vilseck	G-T-Wolves Vs V-Jazz
15 Feb.	Minor	Graf	V-Sonics Vs G-Clippers
16 Feb.	Minor	Vilseck	G-Bucks Vs V-Lakers

Points of Contact:

USAG Grafenwoehr		
Grafenwoehr	Harry E. Lige	475-6656/6655
Vilseck	David Spahr	476-3271
USAG Hohenfels		
Hohenfels	Jerry Mayhew	466-2488/2221

Vilseck High School Girls and Boys
Basketball Team Schedule

Home games start Friday at 4 p.m.
And Saturday at 10 a.m. at Memorial Gym

Date	Location
13 Jan.	Hohenfels
14 Jan.	Home Game Against Hohenfels
27 Jan.	Aviano, Italy
28 Jan.	Aviano, Italy
3 Feb.	Patch
4 Feb.	Patch
10 Feb.	Black Forest Academy
11 Feb.	Black Forest Academy
17 Feb.	Home Game against Hanau
18 Feb.	Home Game against Hanau
21-25 Feb.	European Championships in Mannheim

Vilseck High School Wrestling Schedule

All home meets begin 10 a.m. at Vilseck High School

Date	Location
14 Jan.	Bamberg
21 Jan.	Home Meet
28 Jan.	Mannheim
4 Feb.	Patch
11 Feb.	Heidelberg
17-18 Feb.	European Championships in Wiesbaden



Members of Vilseck’s Wrestling team practice at Memorial Fitness Center and learn new techniques for upcoming meets.



Bambino players Collyn Cowles, 3, and teammate Luke McKissock, 4, practice at Vilseck’s Elementary School gym.